



Baystate Medical Center listed as third-best hospital in Massachusetts by U.S. News & World Report

Baystate Medical Center 2013.jpg

Baystate Medical Center in Springfield has been listed as the third best hospital in Massachusetts by U.S. News & World Report. *(Dave Roback / The Republican)*

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SPRINGFIELD — **Baystate Medical Center** is the third-best hospital in Massachusetts, according to new **U.S. News & World Report "Best Hospitals"** ranking released Tuesday.

That's up from fifth-best Massachusetts hospital in the publication's rankings last year.

"What it means is that **Baystate Medical Center** has one of the highest quality rating in the county and it is one of the safest hospitals in the country as far as avoiding a serious medical mistake, said **Dr. Evan M. Benjamin**, senior vice president for health care quality at Baystate.

Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, which merged July 1 with the much smaller **Cooley Dickinson Hospital** in Northampton, was ranked No. 1 in Massachusetts and the second-ranked hospital in the country. Brigham and Women's Hospital, also in Boston, was No. 2 in the state. The Austin Riggs Center, a psychiatric facility in Stockbridge, was tied for seventh in the state and the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center in Worcester was No.14.

There were no other Western Massachusetts hospitals on the list.

Mass General was No. 1 nationally last year, U. S. News said. But this year Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore reclaimed the top spot, a position it held from 1991 through 2011.

Patient safety has been an ongoing effort at Baystate, Benjamin said.

"It's why every patient has a bar code on his or her wrist band like in the supermarket," Benjamin said. "We are bar-coding the patient and the medication to make sure everything matches and that patients get the right treatment at the right times."

U.S. News and World Report collects all the patient safety data Baystate reports to various state and federal

agencies and aggregates it in one place, Benjamin said.

U.S. News also considers Baystate “nationally ranked” in three specialties: endocrinology and the care of diabetics, ear, nose and throat, and pulmonology or the study and treatment of diseases of the lungs.

Separately, **Baystate Children’s Hospital** is also recognized as nationally ranked for its work in endocrinology and the treatment of diabetes in children, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Additionally, Baystate Medical Center as a whole has been recognized as a “high-performing” hospital in additional disciplines: cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, gastroenterology and related surgery, geriatrics, gynecology, **nephrology**, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics and urology.

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